

USOE HAPPENINGS

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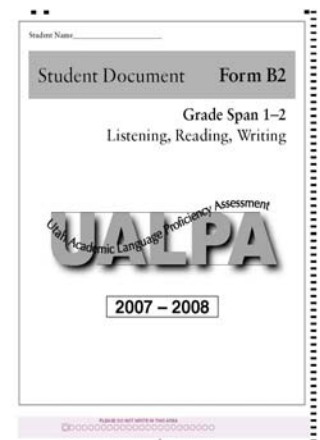
NEW STAFF

- NEW Secondary Math/UBSCT specialist Nolan Fawcett, Page 2
- NEW Elementary Math/Special Education Consultant Jennie DeFriez, Page 3
- NEW Test Development Coordinator, David Smith (information next month)
- NEW Elementary ELA and Special Education Consultant, Margaret Young (information next month)

UALPA COMES TO LIGHT

Many of you have recently received your UALPA II materials. You will notice that there are two levels packaged for you based on your district's student scores from last year's assessment. Please read through the test materials to become familiar with them before your teachers are trained so you will be able to answer many of their questions. Be sure that you keep track of their questions. If there are any

you can't answer, we can address them on our FAQ's page. Please check this page periodically; it can be found at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/faq.aspx> and will be updated frequently! Also be aware that every district will receive Administrator training DVDs—even those that do not currently have ELL students enrolled. The USOE will only provide these once. If they are lost, districts will have to download the materials off the web.



USOE/Assessment

As we begin another school year, we anticipate a continued collaborative working relationship with each district and charter in working toward many exciting areas on the horizon. The Assessment Section will continue support for formative assessments, as well as speed up the development of testing through a computer-based format. We will see the refinement of the UALPA for assessing ELL students' academic language (continued on page 3)

UTAH UPCOMING NRT ASSESSMENT

The 2007 legislation now only requires NRT testing (i.e., Iowa) in grades 3, 5, and 8. This administration is in the fall. Remember, the Iowa test booklets are the only assessment retained at school district level for future use!. NEW—Be sure to keep the Coordinators Guide for use next year!



CBT

Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

2007-2008 will be an exciting school year for CBT, as we work together in an effort to significantly increase participation. Many thanks to you who have spent so much time evaluating individual school and district ca-

capacity, and for providing feedback concerning the many issues this initiative raises. 2008 CRTs will again be delivered through Pearson's eMeasurement and TestNav systems. We in the Assessment Section look forward to working closely with you as we move forward with both the planning and implementation of an aggressive CBT year.

The CBT Summit, to be held November 7th and 8th, will be a forum to explore the possibilities and timeline for the state as we move into a 100% CBT environment for summative state tests, and will outline key elements for future inclusion in our CBT structure. Thank you for your patience and willingness to be involved.

RESULTS—What We All Want

COGNOS Update—Creating Report Formats for All to Share

The use of data by schools has substantially increased over the last five years. Each school requires information that will assist it in meeting the unique needs of its student populations. To help schools obtain data that answers their questions, the USOE sponsored access to COGNOS. Many state school districts have just completed a series of COGNOS training sessions that began in early 2006. Representatives from around the state are now meet-

ing together monthly to create reports that can be shared with any district in the state. This means that if one district has a report that another district needs, that report can be available within hours, populated with their district's data. Individual districts will no longer have to create all the reports they need; this will save time and money. The new state COGNOS website contains all of the report formats available for download. We encourage schools and districts to take advantage of these reports.

For more information, contact Murry Jensen at 538-7823 or any member of the COGNOS User's Group.

School Performance



Reports

UBSCT and Secondary Math Specialist—Nolan Fawcett

As the new person in the cubicles, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself.

I was raised in a small town in northern Utah called Henefer.

Upon graduation I joined the US Air Force Reserve program. I was indoctrinated and trained that first summer after graduation. After returning to my unit at Hill Air Force Base, I was granted a two-year leave of absence to go to Australia on an LDS mission. I then served at McChord AFB in the state of Washington. For eight years I flew Air Evacuation flights to the Philippines each summer as a flight medic. At the same time I received my degree in Psychology and Mathematics from Weber State and started a teaching career in the Davis School District. The rest of my career includes 22 years in the 151st Medical Clinic traveling extensively around the world, and 31 years teaching in the Davis School District. I have five children and eight grandchildren.

I am honored to be working here at the Utah State Office of Education and representing teachers as the Secondary Assessment Specialist.

UBSCT October Administration Updates

The October administration of the UBSCT is rapidly approaching. Any eleventh or twelfth grade students who have not passed one or more subtests are eligible to participate. The administration dates are October 16, 17, and 18, 2007. Make-up testing can be scheduled for any time between October 19 through 23, and must be conducted in a uniform manner across each district. Each school within a district must offer make-up sessions at the same time. For the 2007-2008 administrations of the UBSCT, changes

have been made to provide more accurate pre-printed answer documents and faster turn around of data. **First** the USOE will be responsible for the delivery of pre-printed and blank answer documents to districts. Pre-print files must be submitted two weeks prior to testing. Sharon Marsh at the USOE should be contacted with any questions. All answer documents will be returned to Measured Progress with the provided testing materials at the end of testing. **Second**, the return process will be a UPS pre-

scheduled pick-up on Thursday, October 25 for ALL materials. Schools must organize and return documents to their district on Tuesday. Districts must account for and package documents on Wednesday, and be prepared for the Thursday morning pick-up. **In order to facilitate faster turnaround of test results, procedures for shipping and return of materials must be followed carefully.** Finally, the USOE and Measured Progress are designing a system through which districts have the opportunity to view and update student demographic data after testing. Additional information will be distributed closer to testing.

USOE—Assessment (continued from pg. 1)

with new UALPA item writing workshops for piloting in 2009. Changes in the Math Core will be reflected in the pilot sections of the math CRTs. Assessment will provide further information on what concepts are incorporated into the new core to assist teachers in preparing students for both the operational and pilot sections of the Math CRT. This information will be available on the USOE Assessment Web site. We look forward to increasing our communication and meeting

the needs of schools and districts. With the beginning of the school year, the Assessment Section has experienced some changes. Please contact our assessment specialists with any questions about assessment content. We welcome the following qualified, experienced educators to our section: Secondary Math and UBSCT—Nolan Fawcett; Elementary Math—Jennie DeFriez, Science—Kevin King; Secondary ELA—Maureen Cuniff; Elementary ELA and DWA—Margaret Young;

ELL—Rita Brock; Computer Based Assessments—Julie Quinn; Iowa—Hal Sanderson and Jami-Jon Person. You can also contact our Results Team for valuable assistance; they are Aaron Brough, Barbara Banks, Murry Jensen, Nate Ober, and Yalin Keçeci. To reach the receptionist, simply dial 801-538-7500, or visit our web site contact list at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/contacts.aspx> for direct numbers.

Jennie DeFriez—Elementary Math Specialist

I was born and raised in Emery County, Utah. I graduated from Utah State University. I have taught elementary math in Box Elder, Davis and Jordan School Districts. Recently, I completed my master's degree in education and my Middle Level Endorsement.

I am married and have a seven-year

old and a new born son. I love traveling to new places and seeing new things. I hope to one day travel to Europe to see the Eiffel Tower, and see the pyramids in Egypt. Come springtime, our family can be found in the mountains camping and four-wheeling. We spend most of our fall hunting. I love fishing on the Green

River below the Flaming Gorge Dam, and have begun taking fly fishing lessons.

I enjoy my new position here at the state office. Please feel free to contact me.

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**The next Assessment
Directors' meeting in
September has been
cancelled.**

Workshops

Secondary Math Bias—9/19

Elementary Math Bias—9/14

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK.
INCLUDE OTHER AREAS OF INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL!

SARAH.MOORE@SCHOOLS.UTAH.GOV.

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/>

Utah Test Item Pool Service (UTIPS)

This summer has been very good for UTIPS. The UTIPS Operator's Group (specifically, Tom Ackerson – Wasatch, Don Remy – NUES, Thom Gourley – UEN, and Loren Bleak, Jared Brown and Patrick McDermott – San Juan) has developed a process for updating the USOE item pool on each of the regional UTIPS servers. Questions regarding the specific timing of this update on each server should be directed to those who manage the server. This item pool update includes the realigned Secondary English Language Arts items.

Work is currently in process to realign the existing Math items in UTIPS to the newly adopted math

curriculum and the UB SCT framework. A constructed response project is currently occurring in Science, and other projects are in place to improve the quality of the USOE item pool. Requests for additional content area item pools (CTE, Fine Arts, etc.) should be directed to the USOE specialist over that content area.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September:

UBI Training—Special Education Services—
(for locations, visit

<http://updc.hosted.webevent.com/cgi-bin/webevent.cgi>)

Curriculum—Social Studies Directors' meeting—9/11

Curriculum—Curriculum Directors' Meeting—9/12

Curriculum—Gifted and Talented Coord. Meeting—9/13

Curriculum—Incian Education Coordinator's meeting—9/13

Utah State Board—9/6-9/7